

Issue 2002-09, Released 9/16/02

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Thank You

to all the
producers who
participated in our
recent surveys. The
results you requested
are in this issue.

*Agricultural Prices
Sept Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Livestock Slaughter
Agricultural Labor*

CALF PRICES SHOW SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT; LAMBS LOWER

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agricultural commodities sold during August was 102 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 3 points (3 percent) from last month, but was down 7 points (6 percent) from August 2001. The All Crops Index was down 3 points (2 percent) from last month, but was unchanged from August 2001. Prices for corn, all wheat, alfalfa, and other hay were higher than last month, but oats and dry beans were lower. The All Livestock Index was up 4 point (4 percent) from last month, but was down 13 points (12 percent) from last year. Prices for steers and heifers, cows, and calves were higher than last month, but prices for sheep and lambs were lower. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

The **Index of Prices Received for Livestock**, at 97, was up 4 points from July but 13 points lower than August 2001. Sheep prices were \$1.20 lower than last month and \$6.50 lower than last year. Lamb prices were \$2.80

lower than last month, but \$23.30 higher than August 2001. Steer and heifer prices were up 70 cents from July but \$12.70 lower than last year. Cow prices were up 60 cents from last month but were \$6.20 lower than last August. Calf prices averaged \$98.60 per hundredweight, up \$2.00 from last month but were \$7.40 lower than last year.

The **Index of Prices Received for Crops**, at 108, was down 3 points from last month but was unchanged from last year. The alfalfa hay price was up \$1.00 from last month and \$2.00 higher than August 2001. Other hay prices were also \$1.00 higher than July and \$2.00 per ton higher than last year. The average corn price was up 21 cents from last month and 31 cents higher than August 2001. Oats was up 10 cents from July and 53 cents higher than last year. Wheat was up 14 cents from last month and 75 cents higher than August 2001. Dry beans were down \$2.00 from July but 50 cents higher than last year. Feed barley prices could not be published due to insufficient sales.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August was 101, based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1 percent) from the July index. Higher prices for corn, wheat, strawberries, and lettuce more than offset decreased prices for hogs, broilers, grapes, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and strawberries.

The current All Farm Products Index is 9 points (8 percent) below August, 2001. Lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and lettuce more than offset higher prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and grapes.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, AUGUST 2001, JULY 2002, AND AUGUST 15, 2002 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY									
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES				
		AUG 2001	JULY 2002	AUG 15 2002	AUG 2001	JULY 2002	AUG 15 2002	% OF PARITY	
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent	
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS									
	Cows	100#	45.20	38.40	39.00	43.10	37.40	36.10	—
	Steers & Heifers	100#	89.70	76.30	77.00	73.50	66.60	66.30	—
	Calves	100#	106.00	96.60	98.60	106.00	94.90	94.70	45
	Sheep	100#	29.50	24.20	23.00	32.20	27.50	1/	—
	Lambs	100#	53.70	79.80	77.00	54.80	75.70	1/	—
CROPS									
	Corn	Bu.	2.24	2.34	2.55	1.90	2.13	2.48	38
	Oats	Bu.	1.37	1.92	1.90	1.25	1.69	1.75	44
	Feed Barley	Bu.	1.75	-	-	1.54	1.85	1.82	—
	All Wheat	Bu.	2.40	3.01	3.15	2.74	3.21	3.60	38
	Dry Beans	100#	19.50	22.00	20.00	17.40	24.50	22.10	46
	Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	108.00	109.00	110.00	105.00	102.00	101.00	—
	Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	103.00	104.00	105.00	74.30	72.20	71.30	—

1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996.

NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.						
1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	AUG 2001	JULY 2002	AUG 15 2002	AUG 2001	JULY 2002	AUG 15 2002
All Commodities	109	99	102	110	100	101
All Crops	108	110	108	109	111	116
All Livestock and Products	110	93	97	111	89	87

WYOMING SUGARBEET PRODUCTION FORECAST DOWN 15 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

An updated forecast based on September 1 conditions indicates sugarbeet production in Wyoming will be lower than last year. The sugarbeet production forecast is down 3 percent from last month and is 15 percent lower than last year. If realized, this would be the smallest crop since 1984.

Sugarbeet producers intended to harvest 37,500 acres, down 500 acres from the previous month. The expected average yield was 19.5 tons per acre, down 0.3 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast and 1.1 tons less than the 2001 yield. Total production was expected to be 731,000 tons.

UNITED STATES: **Corn grain** production is forecast at 8.85 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from last month and down 7 percent from 2001. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 125.4 bushels per acre, up 0.2 bushel from August but down 12.8 bushels from last year. If realized, both the yield and production would be at their lowest levels since 1995.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 28.5 million tons, 3 percent more than the August forecast and 11 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.37 million acres, 1 percent higher than the August estimate and 10 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 20.8 tons per acre, 0.4 ton above the August forecast and slightly above 2001.

ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2001; ACREAGE AND SEPTEMBER 1 FORECASTS 2002

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production			
	2001	2002	2001	Sept 2002	2001	Sept 2002	2001	Sept 2002	02/01 %	
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		1,000					
WYOMING										
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	90	80	51	44	125	2/	6,375	2/		
Winter Wheat (bu)	160	150	120	120	24	16 3/	2,880	1,920 3/	67%	
Spring Wheat (bu)	8	8	6	6	28	4/	168	4/		
Oats (bu)	75	75	28	30	42	4/	1,176	4/		
Barley (bu)	100	90	85	75	84	78	7,140	5,850		82%
Sugarbeets (tons)	48.5	40.0	41.6	37.5	20.6	19.5	857	731		85%
Dry Beans (cwt)	24	30	21	27	21.4	20.0 3/	450	540 3/	120%	
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—	—	580	580	2.20	2.30 3/	1,276	1,334 3/	105%	
Other Hay (tons)	—	—	550	590	1.10	1.20 3/	605	708 3/	117%	
All Hay (tons)	—	—	1,130	1,170	1.66	1.75 3/	1,881	2,042 3/	109%	
UNITED STATES										
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	75,752	78,947	68,808	70,541	138.2	125.4	9,506,840	8,848,529		93%
Winter Wheat (bu)	41,078	41,362	31,295	29,764	43.5	38.9 3/	1,361,479	1,158,710 3/	85%	
Spring Wheat (bu)	15,629	15,963	14,569	15,172	35.2	29.5 3/	512,608	448,051 3/	87%	
Oats (bu)	4,403	5,085	1,905	2,633	61.3	54.2 3/	116,856	142,580 3/	122%	
Barley (bu)	4,967	5,048	4,289	4,499	58.2	55.9 3/	249,590	251,700 3/	101%	
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,370.8	1,408.8	1,243.6	1,370.8	20.7	20.8	25,787	28,495		111%
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,429.9	1,874.3	1,243.0	1,690.6	15.72	16.09 3/	19,541	27,207 3/	139%	
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—	—	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09 3/	80,266	74,640 3/	93%	
Other Hay (tons)	—	—	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.92 3/	76,437	77,976 3/	102%	
All Hay (tons)	—	—	63,511	64,709	2.47	2.36 3/	156,703	152,616 3/	97%	

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.

2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 2003.

3/Forecasts carried forward from August.

4/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released September 30.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 7 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.09 million head on August 1, 2002. Inventory was 7 percent below August 1, 2001 and 1 percent below August 1, 2000.

Placements in July totaled 1.84 million, 7 percent below 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 369,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 591,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 515,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.19 million, 7 percent above 2001 and 5 percent above 2000.

Cattle on feed August 1, 2002, in the historic 7 monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.75 million, down 7 percent from the previous year and 1 percent below August 1, 2000.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST 1, 2001-2002 1/						
State	On Feed July 1, 2002	Place- ments July 2002	Market- ings July 2002	Other Disapp. July 2002	On Feed August 1, 2002	On Feed August 1, 2001
Thousand Head						
CO	1,030	190	225	5	990	1,060
KS	2,160	510	520	10	2,140	2,420
NE	1,890	400	495	5	1,790	1,810
TX	2,850	390	490	10	2,740	3,000
Oth						
Sts.	2,557	350	463	15	2,429	2,601
U.S.	10,487	1,840	2,193	45	10,089	10,891

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

U.S. MONTHLY RECORD HIGH FOR RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during July 2002 totaled 400,000 pounds. This is up 30 percent from June 2002 and up 31 percent from July 2001. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred **cattle** were slaughtered, up 100 head from July 2001. Total liveweight was 756,000 pounds, up 37 percent from July 2001. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,175 pounds, 34 pounds heavier than last year.

Four hundred **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, unchanged from a year ago. Total liveweight, at 99,000 pounds, was up 9 percent from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 244 pounds, up 1 pound from year ago.

One hundred **sheep** and **lambs** were processed totaling 17,000 pounds liveweight. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 140 pounds, up 5 pounds from a year earlier.

January - July red meat production was 2.9 million pounds, up 7 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in July, up 10 percent from the 3.64 billion pounds produced in July 2001 and a new record high for July.

Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year and a new record high for July. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.19 million head, up 8 percent from July 2001. The average liveweight was 1,248 pounds, up 32 pounds from July a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and also a new record high for July. Hog kill totaled 8.07 million head, 8 percent above July 2001. The average liveweight was 260 pounds, unchanged from July a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 257,600 head, 6 above last year. The average liveweight was 127 pounds, down 13 pounds from July a year ago.

January - June red meat production was 27.0 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JULY 2001 AND 2002, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	July 2001	July 2002	July 2001	July 2002	% 02/01	July 2001	July 2002	July 2001	July 2002	% 02/01
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
Cattle	500	600	552	756	137	2,942,500	3,187,100	3,577,258	3,977,918	111
Hogs	400	400	91	99	109	7,447,600	8,067,500	1,936,790	2,101,406	108
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	17	17	100	243,500	257,600	34,185	32,649	96

FEWER AG WORKERS IN THE REGION

The tri-state hired labor force on farms and ranches during the week July 7-13, 2002 was down 12 percent from a year ago. During this period, 30,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. The number of hired workers a year earlier was 34,000. Of the 30,000 hired workers, 22,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 8,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 24,000 and 10,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 48.3 compared with 46.0 last July.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$7.62 per hour, virtually unchanged from last year but down 38 cents (5 percent) from April 2002. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$7.12 per hour compared with \$7.08 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$7.74 per hour compared with \$7.73 last year.

UNITED STATES: There were 1.21 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 7-13, 2002, down 12 percent from a year ago. There were 966,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural Service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 240,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.60 per hour during the July 2002 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.91 per hour, up 21 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$8.37 per hour compared with \$7.89 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 39.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 0.2 hours from a year ago.



**Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker,
Regions and U.S., July 7-13, 2002 1/**

Region		Hired Workers			
		Type of Worker			
		Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
		Dollars per hour			
Mntn I	2/	7.12	7.74	7.42	7.62
Mntn II	3/	7.23	7.35	7.27	7.82
No Plns	4/	8.32	8.57	8.41	8.72
U.S.	5/	7.91	8.37	8.02	8.60

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & South Dakota
5/ Excludes Alaska